

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 4 remain pending in the present application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication on page 5, item 3 that claims 2 and 4 have been allowed. The rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully traversed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over **Girod** (USP 6,480,541). However, it is respectfully submitted that **Girod** does not teach or suggest all the features recited in the present claimed invention.

For instance, independent claims 1 and 3 recite a compensation section that generates a compensated original picture “obtained by adding and subtracting to/from said original picture a value obtained by dispersing an encoding error occurred in said first (or i-th) encoding section to the remaining channels.”

Girod does not generate encoded bit streams based on dispersing an encoding error amongst multiple channels. **Girod** describes multiple embedded coders 100a, 100b, and 100c, each of which supplies data at different bit rates (see e.g., column 7, lines 26 – 20; and column 8, lines 4 – 14). Bit streams coded by each of the multiple coders 100a-c are stored for selective transmission over a single transmission channel 150. The appropriate bit stream coded at one of the different bit rates is selected based on the bit rate used by the transmission channel (see e.g., column 8, lines 15 - 21). Such disclosures teach no more than a preferential transmission of

encoded data, based on the bit rate employed by a specific transmission channel. Basically, **Girod** only describes transmission of a selected bit stream (coded at one of several different bit rates) over a *single* transmission channel 150. The encoding described in **Girod** has nothing to do with dispersing any encoding error across *multiple* channels. The different bit rate coders 100a-c of **Girod** do not incorporate a plurality of transmission channels as a factor in their encoding. For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

To clarify further, an interframe coding apparatus 100" in Fig. 2 of **Girod** may be described as shown in the attached Appendix A. It is apparent from the attached Appendix A that **Girod** does not disclose "a first compensation section for generating a first compensated original picture obtained by adding to said original picture a value obtained by dispersing an encoding error occurred in said first encoding section to the remaining channels and a second encoding section for encoding said first compensated original picture and transmitting an encoded compensated picture through a second channel" in claim 1 of the present invention; nor "an i-th ($i=2, 3, \dots, N-1$) compensation section for generating an i-th compensated original picture obtained by adding to said original picture a value obtained by dispersing an encoding error occurred in an i-th encoding section to the remaining channels and an (i+1) -th encoding section for encoding said i-th compensated original picture and transmitting an encoded i-th compensated picture through an (i+1) -th second channel" in claim 3. For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

U.S. Application No. 09/963,576
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated June 3, 2004
Response to the Office Action of March 3, 2004

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Appendix A

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